Grounding of Westland fleet of Pawan Hans Ltd.

*225. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost half of the Wasteland fleet of Pawan Hans Ltd., operating from Bombay has been grounded for want of spares causing operational problems for the ONGC;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even after carrying out modifications in the Westland WL-30 by a team of experts from United Kingdom their performance has not been found to be satisfactory;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what are the reasons for delay in the supply of spares and the amount of loss incurred by ONGC on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIV RAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Modification is an ongoing process. Whenever maintenance problems are faced in the case of Westland 30, Pawan Hans Ltd., endeavours to take all remedial measures, after consulting the experts from UK as well, to the extent necessary. In this connection experts from UK have also come to India on more than one occasion. The modifications incorporated on the basis of consultations with the experts had the effect of improving performance in a number of areas.

(d) The reasons for delay in supply of spares are erratic pattern of consumption of spares, higher rate of conumption due to system unserviceability and the long lead time involved in getting the engines|modules| rotables repaired abroad. Since Pawan Hans Ltd., has made stand-by arrangements for meeting ONGC's helicopter support requirements, the latter has not incurred any loss on this account.

New Railway Projects in West Bengal

*226. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made so far in each of the new railway projects in West Bengal in physical and financial terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): The progress physical and financial on new line projects in West Bengal is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Expenditure incurred upto June, 1989 (in Rs. Cr.)	Cumulative physical progress
1	Lakshmikantapur Namkhana	3.35	7%
2	Tamluk Digha	6.42	7.8%
3	Howrah Amta Champadanga	15.91	43%
4	Eklakhi Balurghat	304	3%